

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-12. (canceled)

13. (new) A tendon and ligament support (1, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 90, 100, 111) for a limb joint having an anterior side and a posterior side comprising a first limb-embracing collar (1, 112), a second limb-embracing collar (3, 113), a connection means (4) for providing articulation and separation between the two collars, and means for securing the collars so as to embrace the limb respectively above and below the joint; wherein the connection means is adapted to provide limited ligament and/or tendon elongation under load, and comprises a resistance-exerting pivot (11, 114) arrangement for providing articulation and separation between the two collars so as to exert a resistance to joint movement over a predetermined range of pivot rotation, in combination with essentially inelastic means (6, 12, 61, 71, 115) arranged across the posterior side of the joint so as to limit joint movement within said predetermined range of joint rotation.

14. (new) A tendon and ligament support as claimed in claim 13, wherein the connection means includes adjustment means (118) to vary said predetermined range of pivot rotation.

15. (new) A tendon and ligament support as claimed in claim 13, wherein the resistance-exerting pivot arrangement is arranged to exert progressively increasing resistance to joint movement as the pivot arrangement rotates under downward pressure.

16. (new) A tendon and ligament support as claimed in claim 13, in which the pivot arrangement is adapted to accommodate limited lateral joint movement.

17. (new) A tendon and ligament support as claimed in claim 13, in which the pivot arrangement includes one or more hinges (11, 114).

18. (new) A tendon and ligament support as claimed in claim 13, in which the resistance-exerting pivot arrangement is provided with an adjustable brake (21), or by a stop to prevent joint movement beyond said predetermined range of pivot rotation.

19. (new) A tendon and ligament support as claimed in claim 13, in which the essentially inelastic means is provided by a connector of high tensile strength connected to one or more points on each of the first limb-embracing collar (2) and the second limb-embracing collar (3), adapted so as to mimic an artificial tendon or ligament arrangement.

20. (new) A tendon and ligament support as claimed in claim 13, in which either said a first limb-embracing collar or said second limb-embracing collar comprises air intake entrances (103) at the front face of the support, and comprises channels

(91, 104) to allow coolant gas or liquid pass from one part of the support to another.

21. (new) A tendon and ligament support (1, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 90, 100, 111) for a horse's fetlock joint (5) having an anterior side and a posterior side comprising a cannon bone-embracing collar (1, 112), a pastern bone-embracing collar (3, 113), a connection means (4) for providing articulation and separation between the two collars, and means for securing the collars so as to embrace the horse's leg respectively above and below the fetlock joint; wherein the connection means is adapted to provide limited ligament and/or tendon elongation under load, and comprises a resistance-exerting pivot arrangement (11, 114) for providing articulation and separation between the two collars so as to exert a resistance to fetlock joint movement over a predetermined range of pivot rotation, in combination with essentially inelastic means (6, 12, 61, 71, 115) arranged across the posterior side of the fetlock joint so as to limit fetlock joint movement within said predetermined range of fetlock joint rotation.

22. (new) A tendon and ligament support as claimed in claim 21, in which at least one of said collars further comprises a panel (123) constructed from shock-absorbent composite materials (122) adapted to provide protection to a horse's fore leg against over reach striking by the horse's hind leg.

23. (new) A tendon and ligament support as claimed in claim 13, wherein the resistance-exerting pivot arrangement is arranged to exert a substantially constant resistance to joint movement as the pivot arrangement rotates under downward pressure.

24. (new) A tendon and ligament support as claimed in claim 13, wherein the resistance-exerting pivot arrangement is arranged to exert no resistance to joint movement unless the pivot arrangement rotates beyond said predetermined range of pivot rotation.

25. (new) A tendon and ligament support as claimed in claim 13, wherein the resistance-exerting pivot arrangement is arranged to be locked in position so as to exert total resistance to joint movement in both flexion and extension when so required.